

Kerri Colombo
29 Huckleberry Hill Road
Brookfield, CT 06804

February 27, 2022

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 15 (SB15) & House Bill 5042 (HB5042)

Dear Legislators:

Please Vote No on the Primary Care Roadmap Capitation Plan. The results are in. After a decade of Medicare experimentation with Primary Care Capitation the results have shown that the practice of compensating a flat fee regardless of how many or how few services or hours a physician provides, shows no financial savings to the program and little or no improvement in quality. In fact, since the 2012 rejection of capitated managed care, Connecticut's HUSKY Medicaid program that covers one in four state residents has saved billions in tax dollars, expanded access to care, improved quality, and providers have come back to the program. I have personally had providers say they appreciate the streamlined HUSKY system.

In addition to the lack of cost benefit in a Primary Care Capitation system, health outcomes will likely be worse in already under-served populations. With Primary Care Capitation, providers are disincentivized to serve populations that require a lot of attention such as the disabled, elderly and those in low income areas for whom care requirements warrant increased resources and time devoted to patient health needs.

It is clear that Primary Care Capitation cannot achieve the benefits that some might imagine. Instead it is likely more costly, with few benefits and a much greater risk of detriment to populations requiring more services and care. Our residents in CT do not need an investment in a system that will prove faulty in application.

Right now our CT residents are in desperate need of insurance companies covering the cost of access to mental health care for all ages, substance abuse intervention, dental care and continued and expanded access to CT HUSKY healthcare to help ensure these needs are met.

Our family, like many, have found that ongoing enrollment in CT HUSKY Medicaid as our family's secondary insurance when the federal health emergency was declared has been a godsend, especially as our children in particular have struggled with numerous health challenges resulting from this pandemic.

With only our primary insurance (that cost \$12,000 a year for a family of four) our medical bills would be in the thousands, if not for CT HUSKY Medicaid healthcare which has covered the remaining costs. If CT HUSKY Medicaid is negatively impacted or if our enrollment is discontinued because of funding being redirected to a faulty Primary Care Capitation system or anywhere else, the costs of addressing our children's health needs will be prohibitive and our family will have to decide which health needs will no longer be addressed. I am very concerned about what will happen if we lose CT HUSKY Medicaid coverage and are forced to discontinue services that have proven beneficial to the health of our children.

Please:

- Vote No on the Primary Care Roadmap Capitation plan.
- Work to ensure insurance companies cover their fair share of the cost of mental health services for all ages, substance abuse intervention and dental care.
- Vote to continue and expand access to HUSKY healthcare for families like mine who became eligible for enrollment during the federal health emergency declaration and are relying on CT HUSKY Medicaid as our secondary insurance to address ongoing health struggles.

Respectfully,

Kerri Colombo